

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims Status

Claims 1, 6, 8, and 13 remain pending in the application. Claims 2 through 5, 7, 9 through 12, and 14 through 19 have been canceled. Claims 1, 6, 8, and 13 have been amended to even more succinctly define the invention and/or to improve their form. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 8 are the only independent claims pending in the application.

Claim Objections

Claims 5, 6, 12, and 13 are merely objected to on form PTOL-326 of the Official Action. These claims are not rejected over art and are understood to contain allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7 through 9, 11, and 14 through 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,109,254 (Oka, et al. '254).

Claims 3 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Oka, et al. '254 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,564,607 (Miller, et al. '607).

The rationale underlying the rejections is succinctly set forth in the Official Action.

Response to Claim Rejections

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections and solely to advance prosecution, Claims 2 through 4, 7, 9 through 12, and 14 through 19 *inter alia* have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is moot.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 5. Accordingly, amended Claim 1 is now believed to be allowable.

Independent Claim 8 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claim 12. Accordingly, amended Claim 8 is now believed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 8 are allowable over the cited art.

Dependent Claims

Claims 6 and 13 have been amended to depend directly from Claims 1 and 8, respectively, and are allowable by virtue of their dependency and in their own right for further defining Applicant's invention. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Closing Comments

It is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the cited art and that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment could not have been presented earlier in the prosecution, inasmuch as it was earnestly believed that the claims heretofore on file were in condition for allowance. No new claims have been presented. It is believed that the Examiner's

familiarity with the present application will allow full consideration hereof without the expenditure of undue time and effort.

Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application are earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'W. M. Wannisky', is written over a horizontal line.

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